

DOE Weekly Field Memo – March 31, 2010

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What Matters Most: Message from Deputy Commissioner

Audience: All

This memo from Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf seeks to reach out to superintendents, principals and educators about the recent national emphasis on ranking schools and how our state fits with those expectations. Read the complete memo at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#matters.

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner, at (802) 828-5101 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us

2010 NECAP Science Test Administration Window & Test Coordinator Workshops

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Career and Technical Education Center Directors, Curriculum Coordinators, Science Department Chairs

The administration window for this year's New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science tests is **May 10-27, 2010**. All Vermont students in grades 4, 8, and 11, including publicly funded students attending private independent schools, should participate unless a student qualifies for alternate assessment or an exemption for medical reasons, family emergency or personal crisis. The department and Measured Progress will offer test coordinators workshops around the state during the last week of April. For more information go to:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/science.html#workshops

Contact: Michael Hock, Assessment Director, at (802) 828-3115 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Changes in Food Service Management Contracts and Procedures

Audience: Food Service Providers, Business Managers

The contract between a School Food Authority (SFA) and a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) is a major factor in assuring a meal service that not only meets the best interest of the SFA but also conforms to USDA, state and local requirements in a cost-effective manner. The contract is the basis for successful and appropriate oversight by the SFA. As a state agency, the department must ensure that the SFA-FSMC contract includes all of the required provisions and does not contain any unallowable provisions. In the past two years, changes in regulations have occurred which require the incorporation of new language and specific rules with respect to the RFP and contracts. Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_nutrition/school_nutrition/policy.html#management.

Contact: Laurie Colgan, Director, Child Nutrition Programs, at (802) 828-5153 or laurie.colgan@state.vt.us

Financing Options for Approved School Renovation Projects

Audience: Business Managers, Principals, Superintendents, School Boards

Recent federal legislation included some changes to the ARRA-authorized Qualified School Construction Bond program. If you are planning a school renovation or construction project, please review the new fact sheet at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_construction.html#primer.

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf, School Construction Consultant, at (802) 828-5402 or cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us

New Incentive Program from Efficiency Vermont for Lighting Projects

Audience: Business Managers, Principals, Superintendents, School Boards

Efficiency Vermont has launched a new financial assistance program to assure high quality results from your energy-saving lighting retrofit projects. RELIGHT will help offset the costs of including a qualified lighting designer to your project team. Avoid under-lit and over-lit spaces while maximizing your energy savings. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_construction.html#facilities for more information.

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf, School Construction Consultant, at (802) 828-5402 or

cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us

Grant Opportunity for Skills-based, Comprehensive Health Education in Vermont Schools

Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Directors, Health Coordinators, Principals, Independent School Headmasters

The department will provide up to \$16,000 each for four supervisory unions/school districts in a two-year competitive grant. The goals of this grant program are for schools to: 1) Improve student health literacy through improved health instruction by aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment; 2) Develop an LEA-wide assessment system in health education. To access the application, visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_hiv.html#hiv_app.

Contact: Kate C. O'Neill at (802) 828-5151 or kathryn.oneill@state.vt.us

Advanced Placement (AP) Fee Reduction Grant

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators

Vermont has been awarded an AP Fee Reduction Grant for 2010. The purpose of this grant is to pay all or a portion of the AP fees on behalf of eligible low-income students who are enrolled in an AP course and plan to take an AP exam. For further information go to

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/enrichment.html#grant.

Contact: Noel Bryant at (802) 828-0125 or noel.bryant@state.vt.us

Adequate Yearly Progress Determinations Expected in Early May

Audience: All

Schools can expect Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations to be released to the public in early May. This allows for ample time to review and analyze the data, and ensures that the information will not be released while schools are on April break.

Contact: Gail Taylor, Director of Standards and Assessment, at (802) 828-5158 or gail.taylor@state.vt.us

Vermont Students Compete in National Real World Design Challenge

Audience: Technology Coordinators, Superintendents, Principals, CTE Directors

Vermont's State Champions in the Real World Design Challenge spent the weekend of March 27 and 28 in Washington, D.C. competing with 20 other state teams for the national championship. To read more about the team and the RWDC, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/awards.html#real>.

Contact: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, at (802) 828-5149 or

peter.drescher@state.vt.us

State Board Monthly Report – March 2010

Audience: All

The State Board of Education produces a monthly report that is intended to update the public on Board activities and priorities. Read this month's report at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports.

Contact: Carol King, State Board Liaison, at (802) 828-5101 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us

Reminder: Invitation to Briefing on Board Examination Systems

Audience: Superintendents, High School Principals, School Board Members

Commissioner Vilaseca invites you to a briefing on the Board Examination Systems program of the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) with President Marc Tucker on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Pavilion Auditorium at 109 State Street in Montpelier. Vermont has an opportunity to participate with seven other states in piloting some of the best instructional systems and examinations with the intent of dramatically increasing the number of students who leave high school ready to succeed in college. The focus for our state is on allowing high schools that choose to participate to adopt some of the best (and proven) instructional practices, to provide a powerful system of support to

our struggling students, our most able students, and everyone in between, and to motivate our high school students to take tough courses and study hard in school. Participation by schools in this effort is entirely voluntary, and only students who choose to will participate. View the [complete memo](#). To register, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCEEBriefingRegistration>. Contact: Cindy Lee, Commissioner's Assistant, at (802) 828-0770 or cindy.lee@state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.